

Puget Sound TRT 24th Meeting
Monday & Tuesday 18-19 March 2002
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Mount Vernon, WA

TRT Attendance: Mary Ruckelshaus, Kit Rawson, Bob Fuerstenberg, Norma Sands, Bill Graeber, Ken Currens, Elizabeth Babcock (by phone) *Absentees: Jim Scott*
Visitors: Juliet Fabbri, Glen Grette, Denise Krownbell, Mike Parton of NMFS Habitat, Jeremy Davies NMFS

Summary from Joint TRT Meeting

- **Mary Ruckelshaus** summarized the Joint TRT meeting of last Friday, March 8. The TRT discussed what Bob Lohn expects at the end of April and the TRT clarified the question to answer: What is our planning range given the low end of the range is defined as 5% extinction probability in 100 years? To provide an answer, **the TRT will continue work on the Blue paper and add more defined Viability and ESU-level criteria.**
- The TRT will hold a conference call on **March 28 from 2-4pm** to discuss the Blue paper, **Mary Ruckelshaus** will send around an updated draft that morning for review.
- **The TRT chairs** will be meeting with Bob Lohn this Friday (March 22) to explain what he will receive at the end of April.

Abundance & Productivity, Planning Ranges and Draft Delisting Criteria

- **Norma Sands** updated the TRT on the A&P tables. The workgroup is preparing a paper on trends and productivity and is looking into making the A&P tables accessible to others. The TRT discussed including the table documentation, changes and updates in the TRT library, to prepare for FOIA requests.

Kit Rawson presented sigma-squared values for 13 Puget Sound chinook populations, computed using the slope method (Holmes). The viability workgroup decided to do these over three time periods: short (1987-2000), medium (1975-2000) and long (1968-2000). Estimates were computed for the escapement time series only for the three time period lengths and using the harvest and hatchery adjustments for the medium and short period time lengths. The TRT agreed to use .06 (the minimum for the medium length time series with the harvest and hatchery adjustments) for the lower estimate of sigma-squared. using a 95% probability of persistence over 100 years and running sum QET of 250, this works out to an Nmin of 11,000 fish per year. The TRT has not yet determined which sigma-squared value to use for the upper end of the range of sigma-squared values in the flow chart. The TRT will explain in the Blue paper why these numbers are precautionary: assumes no density dependence, QET includes diversity and results are risk tolerant (no ecology in the model).

The TRT is now operating with the understanding that all PVAs will be done using a 95% probability of persistence over 100 years. The "Blue Paper" and other TRT documents will explain the uncertainties connected with the PVA methods.

- **Ken Currens will work with John Fieberg on these numbers and Mary Ruckelshaus will talk with Eli Holmes.**
- **Kit Rawson and Norma Sands** will edit the A&P sections of the blue paper.

Elizabeth Babcock joined the group by speakerphone to discuss population viability criteria, planning ranges and the Development Committee meeting tomorrow. She reported the co-managers will be releasing recovery goals tomorrow for Puget Sound chinook and she will send the document as soon as she gets it. There is some confusion because the co-managers are providing a range of expected escapements (between maximum sustainable harvest and equilibrium) under the single recovery goal. The TRT agreed to prepare a short response in reply.

Spatial Structure and Diversity

- The TRT discussed what the spatial structure document will read like, the topics it will cover, VSP parameters, additional topics to include and the schedule for the next two weeks and year. The TRT concluded the case studies would answer a lot of these questions.

ESU Recovery: Advice for Shared Strategy and draft delisting criteria

- **Mary Ruckelshaus** handed out a draft paper and the TRT discussed at length ESU scenarios and how to prioritize recovery populations based on: geologic regions, genetic diversity units (GDUs), habitat types, spatial structure and life history traits.
- The TRT agreed on 5 main rules, the first 3 will generate ESU minimum scenarios:
 1. One population of each major diversity type
 2. Minimum of 2-4 populations within geologic regions to provide connectivity; minimum depends on historic conditions and characteristics
 3. Identify core populations (ie - Skagit, Snohomish, Duwamish)
 4. The TRT will provide habitat principles that include spatial structure and the use of upper watersheds
 5. Chinook in non-VSP populations have to be sustainable (not self-sustaining) to provide necessary ecological services at some level of historic contribution
- The feasibility of these rules will be tested in the watershed case studies.
- The TRT will work on noted additions to the Blue, regions and diversity papers for next week and **Mary Ruckelshaus** will write one executive summary for all three. **Bob Fuerstenberg** will write a description of the geologic regions and their definitions. **Bill Graeber** will write a habitat principles document. **Ken Currens** will broaden his diversity criteria paper and add what populations and connections between populations have already been lost.

Watershed Case Studies

- The TRT discussed the watershed case studies: their role, who to involve outside the TRT (who are the experts?) and deadlines. The case studies are an opportunity for the TRT to educate watershed group on the VSP concept and to work on spatial structure and diversity within specific watersheds. **Jeremy Davies, Beth Sanderson and Tim Beechie** have started with the Nisqually and the Snohomish basins.

Population Identification Paper

- **Mary Ruckelshaus** provided a list of changes to the document from TRT and public comments. The TRT went through the list, Mary made all additional changes from the discussion and will send the draft around again for TRT comment.

Schedule for Hood Canal chum and Ozette Lake sockeye

- The population identification (PopID) and viability analyses will be completed by early fall for Chum. The Chum committee has been working on their PopID paper: **Mary Ruckelshaus** will read it and report back to the TRT. **Kit Rawson and Norma Sands** will work on the viability data, and will invite **Tom Johnson and Chris ?** to the next meeting to discuss this.

- The PopID for sockeye will be completed by early fall and the viability data will be worked on in the fall. **Mary Ruckelshaus and Willi ?** will begin compiling the data.

Upcoming Meetings

- March 22 TRT Chairs and Bob Lohn to discuss end of April reports
- March 28 TRT conference call 2-4pm to discuss the Blue paper
- April 2 Afternoon meeting with Shared Strategy 1-4pm in Seattle, location TBA
- April 16-17 Next TRT meeting
- March 19, April 26, May 30, June 28: Development Committee Meetings